

JS 44 (Rev. 10/20)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDAN	ΓS			
WILBEN GONZALEZ			New Werner Corporation	New Werner Holding Co., inc. and Werner Co, a Delaware Corporation (See Attached Sheet)			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Berks County				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant			
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			NOTE: IN LAND	(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Numb	ver)	Attorneys (If Know				
Sacchetta & Ba	ldino			of Michael J. Dunn, LLC			
308 East Secon	id Street, Media, PA	, 19063	One S. Broad	Street, Suite 1840, Phi	iladelphia, PA, 19107		
610-891-9212 II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place on "Y" is	Ong Roy Only	215-545-3333				
1 U.S. Government	_	TONE BOX Only)	(For Diversity Cases On	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintif and One Box for Defendant)		
Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government	Not a Party)	Citizen of This State	PTF DEF I Incorporated or Pr of Business In T	PTF DEF rincipal Place 4 4		
2 U.S. Government Defendant	X 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizens)	hip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2 Incorporated and of Business In A			
IV NATURE OF CHI			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 Soreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		only) ORTS		Click here for: Nature of S			
110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY	625 Drug Related Seizure	BANKRUPTCY 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	OTHER STATUTES 375 False Claims Act		
120 Marine 130 Miller Act	310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product	X 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	of Property 21 USC 88	1 423 Withdrawal	376 Qui Tam (31 USC		
140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability	367 Health Care/		28 USC 157	3729(a)) 400 State Reapportionment		
& Enforcement of Judgment		Pharmaceutical Personal Injury		PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights	410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking		
151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted	330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal		830 Patent	450 Commerce		
Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)	340 Marine 345 Marine Product	Injury Product		835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application	460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and		
153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability	Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY	LABOR	840 Trademark 880 Defend Trade Secrets	Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit		
of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits	350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle	370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending	710 Fair Labor Standards Act	Act of 2016	(15 USC 1681 or 1692)		
190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability	Product Liability	380 Other Personal	720 Labor/Management	SOCIAL SECURITY	485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act		
196 Franchise	360 Other Personal Injury	Property Damage 385 Property Damage	Relations 740 Railway Labor Act	861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923)	490 Cable/Sat TV		
	362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	Product Liability	751 Family and Medical Leave Act	863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange		
REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	790 Other Labor Litigation	864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g))	890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts		
220 Foreclosure	440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting	Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee	791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act	PEDENDAL TELV CHIEFS	893 Environmental Matters		
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land	442 Employment 443 Housing/	510 Motions to Vacate	The state of the s	FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	895 Freedom of Information Act		
245 Tort Product Liability	Accommodations	Sentence 530 General		or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party	896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure		
290 All Other Real Property	445 Amer, w/Disabilities - Employment	535 Death Penalty Other:	IMMIGRATION 462 Naturalization Application	26 USC 7609	Act/Review or Appeal of		
	446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights	465 Other Immigration	OII	Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of		
	448 Education	555 Prison Condition	Actions		State Statutes		
		560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of					
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in	Ong Boy Only)	Confinement					
☐1 Original ☐2 Ren		Remanded from	Reinstated or 5 Trans	ferred from 6 Multidistric	ot P Navidiation		
Proceeding Stat		Appellate Court	Reopened Anoth	ner District Litigation -			
VI CATIGE OF LOWIS	Cite the U.S. Civil Sta	tute under which you are f	iling (Do not cite jurisdictional st	atutes unless diversity);			
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Brief description of ca	use:					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 23	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only it JURY DEMAND:	f demanded in complaint:		
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER			
DATE			NEY OF RECORD	DOCKET NOMBER			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	**************************************	77/		account production and distributions 2 games			
RECEIPT #AM	OUNT	APPLYING IN	JUDGE	MAG. JUD	GE		

DEFENDANTS:

NEW WERNER HOLDING CO., INC.,

WERNER CO., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a NEW WERNER CO.

HOME DEPOT, INC., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a THE HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC. d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a THE HOME DEPOT

LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC., d/b/a, a/k/a t/a LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a LOWE'S HOME CENTERS INC., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT

JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 10/20)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

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- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below. United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

WILBEN GONZAL	EZ	:	CIVIL ACTION	
		:		
	V.	:		
NEW WERNER HO	OLDING CO., INC, ET	:	NO.	
plaintiff shall complifing the complain reverse side of this said designation, the on the plaintiff and	lete a case Management T t and serve a copy on all form.) In the event that a at defendant shall, with its	Track Des defendar a defenda s first app anageme	lay Reduction Plan of this court, couns ignation Form in all civil cases at the tints. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the does not agree with the plaintiff regal earance, submit to the clerk of court and not track designation form specifying the signed.	me of on the ording serve
SELECT ONE OF	THE FOLLOWING CA	ASE MA	NAGEMENT TRACKS:	
(a) Habeas Corpus	– Cases brought under 28	U.S.C. §	2241 through §2255.	()
•	 Cases requesting review vices denying plaintiff So 		sion of the Secretary of Health ity Benefits	()
(c) Arbitration – C	ases required to be designa	ited for a	bitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	()
(d) Asbestos – Case exposure to asbe	•	sonal inju	ry or property damage from	()
commonly referr	ed to as complex and that reverse side of this form fo	need spe	racks (a) through (d) that are cial or intense management by ed explanation of special	()
(f) Standard Manag	ement – Cases that do no	t fall into	any one of the other tracks.	(X)
<u>4///200/</u> Date	Michael J. Dunn, Esqu Attorney-at-law	uire	New Werner Holding Co., Inc. Werner Co., a Delaware Corpor Attorney for Defendants	
215-545-3333	856-910-1480		Michael.Dunn@mjdunnlaw.com	
Telephone	FAX Nu	nber	E-Mail Address	

Case 5:21-cv-01549-JMG Document 1 Filed 04/01/21 Page 5 of 28

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: VVIIDEN GONZAIEZ,	417 Chester Street, Reading, PA, 19601			
Address of Defendant: New Werner Holding Co., Inc., 555 Pierce Road, Suite 300, Itasca, IL 60143				
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:				
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:				
Case Number: Judge:	Date Terminated:			
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the follow	ving questions:			
 Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit previously terminated action in this court? 	pending or within one year Yes No			
Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the sam pending or within one year previously terminated action in this cou	ne transaction as a prior suit Yes No V			
 Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent alrea numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated ac 	dy in suit or any earlier Yes No			
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security ap case filed by the same individual?	peal, or pro se civil rights Yes No			
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is / is not relation is is not relations court except as noted above.	ted to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in			
DATE: 4///107/ Attorney-a	Mult sign here 44893 Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)			
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only)				
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:			
 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. FELA 	Insurance Contract and Other Contracts			
3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 5. Patent 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 8. Habeas Corpus 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify):	2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): 7. Products Liability 8. Products Liability – Asbestos 9. All other Diversity Cases (Please specify):			
10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify): ARBITR	3. Assault, Defamation 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): 7. Products Liability 8. Products Liability — Asbestos 9. All other Diversity Cases (Please specify): ATION CERTIFICATION			
10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify): ARBITE (The effect of this certification is	3. Assault, Defamation 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): 7. Products Liability 8. Products Liability — Asbestos 9. All other Diversity Cases (Please specify): ATION CERTIFICATION to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)			
10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify): ARBITR (The effect of this certification is I,, counsel of record or pro-	3. Assault, Defamation 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): 7. Products Liability 8. Products Liability — Asbestos 9. All other Diversity Cases (Please specify): ATION CERTIFICATION to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)			
ARBITR (The effect of this certification is I,, counsel of record or pro Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs: Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	3. Assault, Defamation 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): 7. Products Liability 8. Products Liability — Asbestos 9. All other Diversity Cases (Please specify): ATION CERTIFICATION To remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)			

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

WILBEN GONZALEZ

Plaintiff

٧.

NO.

NEW WERNER HOLDING CO., INC., WERNER CO., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a NEW WERNER CO.; HOME DEPOT, INC., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a THE HOME DEPOT U.S.A.,: INC. d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a THE HOME DEPOT; : LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC., d/b/a, a/k/a t/a LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a LOWE'S HOME CENTERS: INC., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a LOWE'S HOME **IMPROVEMENT**

Defendants

DEFENDANTS NEW WERNER HOLDING CO., INC. AND WERNER CO.'S PETITION FOR REMOVAL PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §1332 AND U.S.C.§1441

Defendants, New Werner Holding Co., Inc. and Werner Co., by and through their attorneys, Law Offices of Michael J. Dunn, LLC, hereby petition to remove the above-captioned action, which is presently pending in the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas, Docket No. 2012 01792, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332, §1441 and §1446. The grounds for removal are as follows:

I. NATURE OF ACTION

1. This is a product liability action arising out of plaintiff's fall, from a ladder, on October 28, 2019. In his Complaint, plaintiff alleges that he climbed the ladder, an extension ladder, and "was beginning to descend back down the ladder, when the top portion of the ladder slid down, retracted and/or telescoped", causing plaintiff to fall to the ground and sustain various injuries as a

result. See plaintiff's Complaint, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A", at ¶ 11, 12, 13, 14.

- 2. Plaintiff Wilben Gonzalez is a resident of Pennsylvania, with an address of 1417 Chester Street, Reading, PA, 19601. <u>Id</u>. at ¶1.
- 3. Defendant New Werner Holding Co., Inc. is a Delaware corporation with a principal place of business located at 555 Pierce Road, Itasca, IL, 60143.
- 4. Defendant Werner Co. is a Delaware corporation with a principal place of business located at 555 Pierce Road, Itasca, IL, 60143.
- 5. Upon information and belief, defendant Home Depot is a Delaware corporation with a principal place of business located at 2455 Paces Ferry Road, NW, Atlanta, GA, 30339.
- 6. Upon information and belief, defendant Lowe's Companies, Inc. is a North Carolina corporation with a principal place of business located at 1000 Lowe's Boulevard, Mooresville, NC, 28117.
- 7. Pursuant to Pennsylvania pleading rules, plaintiff has asserted that the alleged damages arising out of the accident are in excess of \$50,000.00, the jurisdictional limits of a Board of Arbitrators. See Exhibit "A".

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

- 8. On or about December 30, 2020 plaintiff filed a Complaint in the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas. See Exhibit "A".
 - 9. On or about January 29, 2021, plaintiff filed a Praecipe to Reinstate the Complaint.
- 10. On or about February 26, 2021, plaintiff filed another Praecipe to Reinstate the Complaint.

- 11. Plaintiff's Complaint was ostensibly served on defendants, New Werner Holding Co., Inc. and Werner Co., on March 5, 2021.
- 12. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1446(b)(2)(B), defendants shall have thirty (30) days after service of the Complaint to file a Notice of Removal.
- 13. This Notice of Removal, and related papers, has been filed within thirty (30) days of the date of the ostensible service of plaintiff's Complaint on defendants, and is therefore timely under §1446(b).

III. LEGAL ARGUMENT

A. THE ADVERSE PARTIES ARE COMPLETELY DIVERSE

- 14. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332, a matter may be removed to federal court based upon the diversity of citizenship of the parties.
- 15. Complete diversity of citizenship between the parties exists when "every plaintiff [is] of diverse state citizenship from every defendant." In re Briscoe, 448 F.3d 201, 215 (3d Cir. 2006).
- 16. A corporation is considered to be a citizen of its state of incorporation and the state where it has its principal place of business. 28 U.S.C. §1332(c).
- 17. Under the "nerve center" test adopted by the United States Supreme Court, a corporation's principal place of business is the headquarters of the corporation, i.e. that "place where a corporation's officers direct, control, and coordinate the corporation's activities." Hertz Corp. v. Friend, 559 U.S. 77, 92-93 (2010).
 - 18. Plaintiff is a resident of Pennsylvania.
- 19. Defendants New Werner Holding Co., Inc. and Werner Co., are both Delaware corporations with a principal place of business located at 555 Pierce Road, Itasca, IL 60143.

- 20. Defendant, The Home Depot, Inc., is a citizen of the State of Georgia, with a principal place of business located at 2455 Paces Ferry Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30339.
- 21. Defendant, Lowe's Companies, Inc. is a citizen of the State of North Carolina, with a principal place of business located at 1000 Lowe's Boulevard, Mooresville, NC 28117.
- 22. As a result, there is complete diversity of citizenship between plaintiff (Pennsylvania) and the defendants.

B. THE AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY EXCEEDS \$75,000

- 23. Under 28 U.S.C. §1332(a), federal jurisdiction based on diversity of citizenship requires that the amount in controversy exceed \$75,000.
- 24. The amount in controversy is measured by the pecuniary value of the rights being litigated. <u>Hunt v. Washington Apple Advertising Commission</u>, 432 U.S. 333, 347, 53 L. Ed. 2d 383, 97 S. Ct. 2434 (1977).
- 25. "The amount in controversy is not measured by the low end of an open ended claim, but rather by a reasonable reading of the value of the rights being litigated." <u>Angus v. Shiley, Inc.</u>, 989 F.2d 142, 146 (3d Cir. 1993), citing <u>Hunt v. Washington State Apple Advertising Comm'n.</u>, 432 U.S. 333, 347 (1977) [emphasis added].
- 26. The Court must find that the amount in controversy requirement has been satisfied when a reasonable jury could value plaintiff's losses at an amount above the jurisdictional minimum.

 Id.; See Also Corwin Jeep Sales & Service v. American Motors Sales Corp., 670 F. Supp. 591, 596 (M.D. Pa. 1986) (finding amount in controversy requirement met when the court could not "find to a legal certainty that the parties' respective rights under the franchise agreement are worth less than the jurisdictional minimum.").

- 27. In this case, plaintiff alleges to have suffered various physical injuries, including, but not limited to, contusions of the head and lumbar and thoracic spine, concussion and post-concussion syndrome, post-traumatic headaches, left comminuted displaced fracture of lateral malleolus and intra-articular fracture of posterior malleolus with mild impaction and displacement, left distal fibular and tibial fractures requiring open reduction internal fixation of the distal fibula with a side plate and screws, right hand laceration requiring stitches, strain of the muscles and tendons of the left and right rotator cuff, scarring, disfigurement, and injuries to the nerves and nervous system. Id. at ¶19.
- 28. While defendants dispute plaintiff's allegations, considering the damages claimed by plaintiff, if taken to be true, a reasonable jury could value plaintiff's losses at an amount in excess of the \$75,000 amount in controversy minimum.

IV. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

- 29. Therefore, with both the existence of diversity of citizenship between the parties and the amount in controversy threshold having been satisfied, removal is proper under 28 U.S.C. §1332 and §1441.
- 30. All defendants consent to the removal of this action from the state court in which it is now pending.

WHEREFORE, defendants, New Werner Holding Co., Inc. and Werner Co., respectfully request that this Honorable Court assume full jurisdiction over this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL J. DUNN, LLC

BY:

Dated: 3/3//202/

MICHAEL J. DUNN, ESQUIRE

One South Broad Street, Suite 1840

Philadelphia, PA 19107

(215) 545-3333

Email: Michael.Dunn@mjdunnlaw.com

Attorney for Defendants, New Werner Holding

Co., Inc. and Werner Co.

EXHIBIT "A"

Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County Trial Division

Civil Cover Sheet

For Prothonolaty Use Only (Docket Number)

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PLAINTIFF'S NAME WILBEN GONZALEZ		DEFENDANT'S NAME NEW WERNER HOLDING CO., INC.			
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS 1417 CHESTER STREET READING PA 19601		DEFENDANTS ADDRESS 93 WERNER ROAD GREENVILLE PA 16125			
PLAINTIFF'S NAME		DEFENDANT'S NAME WERNER CO., ALIAS: N	EW WERNER CO.		
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS		DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 93 WERNER ROAD GREENVILLE PA 16125			
PLAINTIFF'S NAME		DEFENDANT'S NAME HOME DEPOT, INC., AL	IAS: THE HOME DEPOT		
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS		DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 1651 S. CHRISTOPHER (PHILADELPHIA PA 1914)			
1	4	COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION Complaint Petition Action Notice of Appeal Writ of Summons Transfer From Other Jurisdictions			
S50,000.00 or less More than \$50,000.00	reprograms reprograms reprograms ry Savings on-Jury Petition ther:	Action			
2P - PRODUCT LIABILITY	ГУ				
STATUTORY BASIS FOR CAUSE OF ACTION					
RELATED PENDING CASES (LIST BY CASE C		FILED PROTHY	IS CASE SUBJECT TO COORDINATION ORDER? YES NO		
	DE	C 30 2020			
		A. SILIGRINI			
TO THE PROTHONOTARY:					
Kindly enter my appearance on t	pehalf of Plaintiff/Petitioner/Ap	pellant: WILBEN GONZALEZ			
Papers may be served at the addi					
NAME OF PLAINTIFF'S/PETITIONER'S/APPELL	ANT'S ATTORNEY	ADDRESS			
GERALD B. BALDINO		308 E. SECOND STREET			
PHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER	MEDIA PA 19063			
(610) 891-9212	(610)891-7190				
SUPREME COURT IDENTIFICATION NO.		E-MAIL ADDRESS			
55624		jerry@sbattorney.com			
SIGNATURE OF FILING ATTORNEY OR PARTY	<i>'</i>	DATE SUBMITTED			
GERALD BALDINO		Wednesday, December 30, 2020, 01:40 pm			

COMPLETE LIST OF DEFENDANTS:

1. NEW WERNER HOLDING CO., INC. 93 WERNER ROAD

GREENVILLE PA 16125

2. WERNER CO.

ALIAS: NEW WERNER CO. 93 WERNER ROAD GREENVILLE PA 16125

3. HOME DEPOT, INC.

ALIAS: THE HOME DEPOT 1651 S. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS BOULEVARD PHILADELPHIA PA 19148

4. LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC.

ALIAS: LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT 1500 NORTH 50TH STREET PHILADELPHIA PA 19131 :

WILBEN GONZALEZ 1417 Chester Street Reading, PA 19601

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY NOT HENOTON COURT OF COMMON PLEAS trested by the

Office of Judicial Records Civil Action - Trial Division 2020 01:40 pm

Plaintiff

NEW WERNER HOLDING CO., INC.,

93 Werner Road

Greenville, PA 16125

And

WERNER CO., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a

NEW WERNER CO. 93 Werner Road

Greenville, PA 16125

And

HOME DEPOT, INC., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a THE HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC. d/b/a,

a/k/a, t/a THE HOME DEPOT

1651 S. Christopher Columbus Boulevard

Philadelphia, PA 19148

And

LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC., d/b/a, a/k/a t/a LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC,

d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a LOWE'S HOME CENTERS: INC., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a LOWE'S HOME

IMPROVEMENT 1500 N. 50th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19131

Defendants

No.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

NOTICE TO DEFEND

NOTICE TO DEFEND

"NOTICE"

"You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

"YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP." THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE FOR NO FEE.

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"AVISO"

"Le han demando a usted en la corte. Si usted quiere defenderse de estas demandas expuestas en las páginas siguientes, usted tiene veinte (20) diás de plazo al partir de la fecha de la demanda y la notificación. Hace falta asentar una comparencia escrita o en persona o con un abogado y entregar a la corte en forma escrita sus defensas o sus objeciones a las demandas en contra de su persona. Sea avisado que si usted no se defiende, la corte tomará medidas y puede continuar la demanda en contra suya sin previo aviso o notificación. Además, la corte puede decidir a favor del demandante y requiere que usted cumpla con todas las provisiones de esta demanda. Usted puede perder dinero o sus propiedades u otros derechos importantes para usted.

"LLEVE ESTA DEMANDA A UN AGOGADO INMEDIATAMENTE. SI NO TIENE ABOGADO O SI NO TIENE EL DINERO SUFICIENTE DE PAGAR TAL SERVICIO, VAYA EN PERSONA O LLAME POR TELEFONO A LA OFICINA CUYA DIRECCION SE ENCUENTRA ESCRITA ABAJO PARA AVERIGUAR DONDE SE PUEDE CONSEGUIR ASISTENCIA LEGAL." ESTA OFICINA PUEDE PODER PROVEER DE USTED LA INFORMACIÓN SOBRE LAS AGENCIAS QUE PUEDEN OFRECER SERVICIOS JURÍDICOS A LAS PERSONAS ELEGIBLES EN UN HONORARIO REDUCIDO PARA NINGÚN HONORARIO.

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SACCHETTA & BALDINO

BY: GERALD B. BALDINO, JR., ESQUIRE

I.D. No. 55624

308 East Second Street

Media, PA 19063

(610) 891-9212

This is not an arbitration matter Leaved by the trial is demanded office of Judicial Records
30 DEC 2020 01:40 pm

Attorney for Plaintiff

WILBEN GONZALEZ

1417 Chester Street

Reading, PA 19601

Plaintiff

v.

NEW WERNER HOLDING CO., INC.,

93 Werner Road

Greenville, PA 16125

And

WERNER CO., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a

NEW WERNER CO.

93 Werner Road

Greenville, PA 16125

And

HOME DEPOT, INC., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a

THE HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC. d/b/a,

a/k/a, t/a THE HOME DEPOT

1651 S. Christopher Columbus Boulevard

Philadelphia, PA 19148

And

LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC., d/b/a, a/k/a

t/a LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC,

d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a LOWE'S HOME CENTERS:

INC., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a LOWE'S HOME

IMPROVEMENT

1500 N. 50th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19131

Defendants

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Civil Action - Trial Division

No.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT - CIVIL ACTION

AND NOW, comes the plaintiff, by and through his undersigned counsel, and alleges as follows:

- Plaintiff, Wilben Gonzalez, is an adult individual residing at 1417 Chester Street,
 Reading, PA 19601.
- 2. Defendant, New Werner Holding Co., Inc. ("New Werner Holding") 93 Werner Road, Greenville, PA 16125 is upon information and belief a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware. Defendant New Werner Holding is registered to do business in Pennsylvania and/or has a registered agent for service in Pennsylvania.
- 3. Defendant, Werner Co., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a, New Werner Co. ("Werner"), 93 Werner Road, Greenville, PA 16125 is upon information and belief a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware. Defendant Werner is registered to do business in Pennsylvania and/or has a registered agent for service in Pennsylvania.
- 4. Defendant, Home Depot, Inc., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a The Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a The Home Depot, ("Home Depot") 1651 S. Christopher Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19148 is, upon information and belief, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and/or is registered to do business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and/or has a registered agent for service in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Further, Home Depot regularly conducts business in Pennsylvania and in the City and County of Philadelphia, for example in its stores and/or distribution centers in Philadelphia, including but not limited to 1651 S. Christopher Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19148, 2200 W Oregon Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19145, and 2539 Castor Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

- 5. Defendant, Lowe's Companies, Inc., d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, d/b/a, a/k/a, t/a Lowe's Home Centers, Inc., a/k/a, t/a Lowe's Home Improvement ("Lowe's"), 1500 N. 50th St., Philadelphia, PA 19131, is, upon information and belief, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina and/or is registered to do business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and/or has a registered agent for service in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Further, Lowe's regularly conducts business in Pennsylvania and specifically in the City and County of Philadelphia, for example in its stores and/or distribution centers in Philadelphia, including but not limited to 1500 N. 50th St., Philadelphia, PA 19131, 2106 S Christopher Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19148, 3800 Aramingo Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19137, and 9701 Roosevelt Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19114.
- 6. Prior to October 28, 2019, New Werner Holding and/or Werner designed, manufactured, assembled, and/or distributed the subject ladder, a 32-foot aluminum extension ladder ("Ladder").
- 7. New Werner Holding and/or Werner sold the Ladder to Home Depot. The transaction between New Werner Holding and/or Werner and Home Depot took place in Pennsylvania.
- 8. In the alternative, New Werner Holding and/or Werner sold the Ladder to Lowe's.

 The transaction between New Werner Holding and/or Werner and Lowe's took place in Pennsylvania.
- 9. Prior to October 28, 2019, Home Depot sold the subject Ladder to Plaintiff in Pennsylvania.
- 10. Alternatively, prior to October 28, 2019, Lowe's sold the subject Ladder to Plaintiff in Pennsylvania.

- 11. On or about October 28, 2019, Plaintiff ascended the subject Ladder to reach a roof at a job site.
- 12. While the Ladder was extended and leaning against the roof, Plaintiff began to descend back down the Ladder at which point the top portion of the Ladder slid down, retracted, and/or telescoped.
- 13. As a result of the sliding/retracting/telescoping, Plaintiff fell to the ground, suffering serious injuries, as more fully set forth below.
- 14. The accident was caused by the negligence of the Defendants and each of them, and Plaintiff brings this action to recover against them jointly and severally.

COUNT I - NEGLIGENCE

Wilben Gonzalez v. All Defendants

- 15. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length.
- 16. The incident and resulting injuries were caused by the negligence of Defendants, acting by and through their agents, servants, workmen and employees.
 - 17. Such negligence and carelessness consisted of the following:
- (a) failing to design and/or utilize proper designs or procedures for the manufacture, assembly, and sale of the Ladder;
- (b) designing or utilizing defective designs and/or procedures for the manufacture, assembly, and sale of the Ladder;
- (c) designing, manufacturing, assembling, and/or selling, the Ladder and/or its component parts which they knew or should have known, was in a defective condition;

- (d) ignoring evidence and facts about the dangers of the Ladder when used in a reasonably foreseeable manner;
 - (e) allowing the Ladder to be sold in a defective condition;
- (f) failing to properly equip the Ladder with appropriate safety devices to permit it to be used safely;
 - (g) failing to offer devices or products so as to make the Ladder safe for use;
 - (h) failing to investigate the dangers associated with the Ladder and its use;
- (i) failing to adequately inform or warn purchasers or ultimate users of the Ladder as to the proper procedures for maintaining the ladder;
- (j) failing to adequately inform or warn purchasers or ultimate users of the Ladder as to the proper procedures for inspecting, maintaining, repairing, and operating the Ladder;
 - (k) failing to warn the user of the Ladder of its inherent design defects;
 - (l) failing to warn about the hazards and dangers associated with the Ladder;
 - (m) failing to properly manufacture the Ladder;
- (n) placing its product in the stream of commerce when they knew it would not operate within the consumer's expectation;
- (o) placing its product in the stream of commerce when they knew the product as designed posed a risk that outweighed the utility of the product;
 - (p) failing to inspect the Ladder prior to sale, rental or lease;
- (q) failing to properly manufacture, design and/or sell the Ladder with appropriate safety features;
 - (r) failing to discover the Ladder's defective condition and/or design;

- (s) utilizing defective materials and componentry in the design and manufacture of the Ladder;
 - (t) designing, manufacturing, and selling a Ladder that malfunctioned;
- (u) failing to properly test the component parts of the Ladder after its manufacture and prior to sale;
- (v) failing to adhere to sound engineering principles consistent with all data available regarding the parameters of intended use and expected environment in the design, testing and manufacture of the Ladder;
- (w) failing to display on the Ladder in a clearly visible, accessible area and in a durable manner all warnings, cautions, or restrictions for safe operation and maintenance necessary for safe operation of the Ladder, in compliance with local, state and federal standards;
- (x) failing to design, manufacture, and sell the Ladder with all devices reasonable and necessary for the safe operation of the ladder during regular, intended use;
- (y) failing to design, manufacture and sell locking support devices of the Ladder which provided interference with the operation of the ladder, thereby preventing the Ladder to be placed in a fully locked position when it was extended;
- (z) failing to design, manufacture and sell locking support devices to prevent a false lock of the Ladder when it was extended;
- (aa) failing to design, manufacture and sell locking support devices to prevent a failure of the locking mechanism thereby causing the Ladder to slide/slip, retract, and/or telescope while being used; and

- (bb) failing to recall the Ladder and all other similar ladders despite becoming aware of numerous incidents and injuries when the extension ladders slipped/retracted/telescoped prior to and subsequent to 2019.
- 18. The injuries and damage to Plaintiff, Wilben Gonzalez, was caused by the negligence of the agents, employees, and/or servants of Defendants.
- 19. Solely as a result of the negligence of the Defendants, Plaintiff was caused to suffer various physical injuries, including, but not limited to, contusions of the head and lumbar and thoracic spine, concussion and post-concussion syndrome, post-traumatic headaches, left comminuted displaced fracture of lateral malleolus and intra-articular fracture of posterior Malleolus with mild impaction and displacement, left distal fibular and tibial fractures requiring open reduction internal fixation of the distal fibula with a side plate and screws, right hand laceration requiring stitches, strain of the muscles and tendons of the left and right rotator cuff, scarring, disfigurement, and injuries to the nerves and nervous system.
- 20. As a direct result of the aforesaid incident, Plaintiff suffered severe shock to his nervous system, great physical pain and mental anguish, all of which may continue for an indefinite period of time in the future. Plaintiff has been compelled to expend various sums of money for medication and medical attention in attempting to remedy the aforementioned injuries.
- 21. As a direct result of the aforesaid incident, plaintiff has been prevented from attending to his usual duties and obligations, and believes that he may be prevented from doing so in the near future, as his injuries are permanent in nature.
- As a result of his injuries, plaintiff has undergone in the past and will in the future continue to undergo great pain and suffering.

- 23. As a result of his injuries, plaintiff may have suffered a permanent disability and permanent impairment of his earning power and capacity.
- 24. As a result of his injuries, plaintiff may have suffered a permanent diminution of his ability to enjoy life and life's pleasures.
- 25. As a result of his injuries, plaintiff has incurred and will in the future incur unreimbursed wage losses.
- 26. As a result of his injuries, plaintiff has been forced to expend and may in the future be forced to expend medical expenses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Wilben Gonzalez, demands judgment against defendants, jointly and severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars, and in an amount in excess of the amount requiring compulsory arbitration.

COUNT II – PRODUCTS LIABILITY UNDER RESTATEMENT OF TORTS (SECOND), §402(A), AND PENNSYLVANIA INTERPRETIVE COMMON LAW

Wilben Gonzalez v. All Defendants

- 27. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length.
- 28. The injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiff were directly and proximately caused by the defective condition of the Ladder, either by virtue of its defective design, defective manufacture, or Defendants' failure to adequately warn of the dangers of the product, for which defendants are strictly liable to plaintiff.
- 29. The defective Ladder involved in the accident described above was defective for its foreseeable use and purpose.
 - 30. The product failed to function safely under a risk/utility analysis.

- 31. The product was defective in that it did not meet the consumer expectations for safe and proper use.
- 32. The injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiff were directly and proximately caused by the defective design, manufacture or failure to warn or adequately warn of the dangers associated with the defective Ladder involved in the accident, which risks could have been eliminated without in any way diminishing the usefulness or utility of the product.
- 33. The injuries and damages suffered by plaintiff were directly and proximately caused by the failure of Defendants placing the product in the stream of commerce when they knew as designed it posed a risk that outweighed the utility of the product, and placing the product in the stream of commerce when they knew it would not operate within the consumer's expectation.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Wilben Gonzalez, demands judgment against Defendants, joint and severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars, and in an amount in excess of the amount requiring compulsory arbitration.

COUNT III - BREACH OF WARRANTY

Wilben Gonzalez v. All Defendants

- 34. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length.
- 35. At the time that they sold the defective Ladder and/or its component parts, Defendants were in the business of manufacturing and marketing the Ladder and/or its component parts and were, with respect to this Ladder and/or its component parts, a "merchant" within the meaning of Article II of the Pennsylvania Uniform Commercial Code.

Case 5:21-cv-01549-JMG Document 1 Filed 04/01/21 Page 26 of 28

36. The injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiff, Wilben Gonzalez, were caused by

a breach of the implied warranty of merchantability extended to Plaintiff by Defendants in

connection with its sale of the defective Ladder and/or its component parts.

37. Defendants impliedly warranted that the Ladder gate was of merchantable quality

and was fit for the purpose and use for which it was intended.

38. Plaintiff relied on the manufactured implied warranty of merchantability and fitness

when purchasing said product.

39. By reason of the aforementioned defective condition the Ladder was not of

merchantable quality and was not fit for its intended use.

40. Defendants breached the implied warranty of fitness and/or merchantability with

respect to the Ladder by designing, manufacturing and selling it in a condition which was

unsuitable for the uses it would ordinarily and foreseeably be put.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff, Wilben Gonzalez, demands judgment against Defendants, jointly

and severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000) Dollars, and in an amount in

excess of the amount requiring compulsory arbitration.

SACCHETTA & BALDINO

Date: December 29, 2020

By: /s/ Gerald Baldino, Jr.

GERALD B. BALDINO, JR., ESQUIRE

Attorney for Plaintiff

VERIFICATION

The undersigned verifies that the statements made in the foregoing Complaint are true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief, and understands that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date: NOV, 23, 2020

Wilben Gonzalez

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Michael J. Dunn, Esquire, attorney defendants, New Werner Holding Co., Inc. and Werner Co., hereby certifies that on the 1st day of April, 2021, I served a true copy of the foregoing Notice of Removal, by email and regular mail on:

Gerald B. Baldino, Jr., Esquire SACCHETTA & BALDINO 308 East Second Street Media, PA 19063 Attorney for Plaintiff, Wilben Gonzalez

MICHAEL DUNN, ESQUIRE